

OPENING OF SCHOOL EDITION

THE BELL RINGER

Montgomery Bell Academy

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46 students view world via Exchange, Wilson Grants

MBA student reflects on his big, red adventure in España

By Ryan Hill
Features Editor

This summer, as one of 25 MBA students blessed by the newly-endowed Wilson Language Grants, I took the journey of a lifetime. Forsaking a potential month of comfortable boredom here in Nashville, I left this country behind for a month in Spain and pursued a life-changing experience. While abroad, I found everything I sought and more.

The power of a second language is almost indescribable. With a bit of diligent study and a willingness to embarrass oneself, a whole new world is suddenly opened. Millions of strangers become potential acquaintances, friends or enemies. The environment one has known all his life loses its grip and significance as it blends into a newly-exposed global picture.

The whole experience demands that one rewind many years and grow up all over again, absorbing a new culture with all its peculiarities, customs, dangers, and treasures. For me, this process began in Madrid, a four-day hazing of sorts that involved, but was definitely not limited to, approaching strangers, avoiding thieves, shaking jet lag, and distancing myself as far as possible from the Nashville way of life.

My grasp on Spanish immediately left the realm of the textbook and began to flourish in the country where the language was born. Hours of hard work the previous school year finally began to pay off in amazing ways right before my very eyes. The first couple of weeks were trying, of course, but by the end of the month I was able to communicate with whomever I wanted, friends and absolute strangers alike.

From Madrid I embarked with my group of fellow travelers on a train to the region of Galicia, located in the Northwest corner of Spain. I stayed for the next two and a half weeks with a family in Vilagarcía de Arousa, a cozy coastal city beautifully situated between warm beaches and verdant mountains. Meeting these people and all of a sudden finding myself under a roof with them was an adventure in itself.

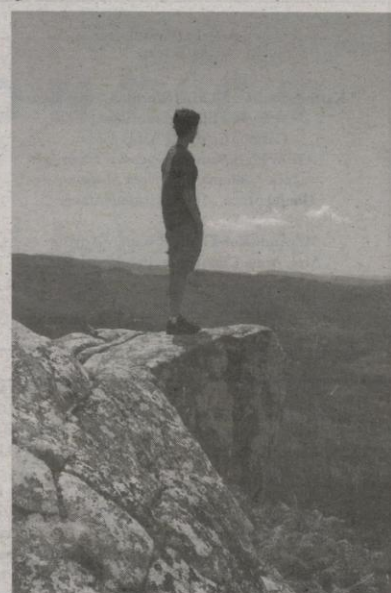
We had our problems just like every biological family on the face of this planet, but the wonderful times outweighed the difficult ones. They fed me until I could hardly stand with rich, exotic food, taking me on a grand (and downright delicious) tour of Spanish cuisine. We took excursions together, visiting areas all over the region like the holy, historic city of Santiago and even venturing into Portugal one afternoon. I became like a son and brother to them, forgetting at times that my real family was actually 4000 miles away across the ocean.

One obvious highlight of my trip was being a part of the gigantic, crazed, national celebration that ensued after Spain

made history in this year's World Cup. After watching the game on a giant screen in a cleaned-out fish market with a few thousand Spaniards, I joined the euphoria in the streets, at times hardly able to move because of the overwhelming multitudes of people in every last crevice of the city.

The night, though, held even more significance for me than that of the monumental victory itself. For the first time, I found acceptance in a Spanish circle of friends. Initially, as an American citizen consequently victim to many and often accurate stereotypes, I was gently treated as another foreign idiot who has a whopping ten-word vocabulary at best. Watching their eyes light up on the beach, though, as they realized that I did in fact know their language and, moreover, was honestly attempting to use it made overlooking their attitudes toward me moments earlier a breeze.

I progressed from days spent mostly with my host family to afternoons and evenings out with my new Spanish friends, some of whom I eventually got to



Senior Ryan Hill overlooks the Spanish countryside during his month-long language immersion made possible by the newly endowed Wilson Language Grants. Photo courtesy of Ryan Hill.

know better than folks I have known back here for years. Nothing was more exhilarating than simply being able to communicate and have meaningful relationships with

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New junior school head talks with *The Bell Ringer*By Karthik Sastry
News Editor

Starting this school year, Mrs. Fran Stewart will be the Director of MBA's Junior School. Mrs. Stewart has spent over 35 years in education, most recently as the principal of East Literature Magnet School from 2003 to 2009. She has also served as principal of Meigs Magnet School and has taught at West End and J.T. Moore Middle Schools. Her position at MBA will be her first foray into a private school environment, and we welcome her to the school. *The Bell Ringer* had a chance to talk with Mrs. Stewart about her background and her long-term goals for the Junior School.

Bell Ringer: Can you tell us a little bit about yourself?

Mrs. Stewart: I have been a neighbor of MBA for 24 years. This location and other community activities have kept me connected with the school. Cyril is my husband of 38 years, and we are the parents of David (28) and Sarah (23). Nashville has been my home for more than 50 years. Some of the things I enjoy doing include knitting, hiking, reading, and gardening. I also love to travel.

BR: What made you take up this position?

FS: First, I have great respect for MBA. Also, my past work with Mr. Gioia gave me a great appreciation for his leadership of and passion for MBA. Finally, after one year of retirement I realized that

I did not feel finished. I missed being with students.

BR: How do you interpret MBA's motto, "Gentleman, Scholar, Athlete"?

FS: I see this as who we are, the ideal that guides everything we do.

BR: What unique experiences from your previous schools will you bring to MBA?

FS: Meigs Magnet has a program very similar to the Junior School at MBA. Probably the most unique experience, though, may be my starting a varsity football program for a magnet school [East Literature Magnet School].

BR: What plans do you have for the Junior School?

FS: I plan to work with Mr. Tillman to build a more inclusive program for grades 7-12. We are one school. Each grade level has special needs and characteristics, but there are many common areas. This year the Junior School will have the same theme as the high school - R-E-S-P-E-C-T. We will join Mr. Tillman, and "Wipe 'er Down" in the dining hall using our own service leaders. The Junior School will add a third area of service by joining with the high school in the established projects where we serve. Mr. Tillman and I will work to establish a common language so that the Junior School will be more than "over there," as we are sometimes referred to now.

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THE BELL RINGER

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Gun laws debate will not cease

By Andrew Powell
Editor-in-Chief



Left: Embody recently carried an AK-47 into Radnor State Park, claiming it was for "self-defense." Photo courtesy of Google Images.

Guns are as much a part of American culture as apple pie and sweet tea. While on Exchange in Sydney, Australia, I was inundated with questions regarding gun laws in America. The topic proved more interesting than encounters with Miley Cyrus, Taylor Swift, or other Nashville celebrities, as the 16- to 18-year-old Australians were shocked by the fact that Americans can both own a firearm and carry it in public.

My response to their probing questions of "Why own a gun?" and "Isn't it scary that people have guns?" tended to revolve around it being a Constitutional right. Beyond that, I had not given the topic much thought - thus far, in my 17 years spent in Texas and Tennessee, I have merely accepted guns as a part of life, whether in the hands of average citizens, policemen, or criminals. Recently, however, there has been fervent debate over the effectiveness of current gun laws, with adamant opponents lobbying for tightening or loosening of Tennessee laws.

Gun Rights activists often interpret their "Right to Bear Arms" as the freedom to carry (concealed or openly) a firearm in any facet of daily life. Some take this "right" to a whole new level: on August 3rd The Tennessean featured an article on Mr. Leonard Embody, who has twice caused a major stir with his open-carry antics.

Last December, Embody

carried an AK-47 into Radnor Lake State Park. He claimed he was carrying a "large handgun" openly for self-defense, a practice made legal by a 2009 law allowing "open carry" in Tennessee parks. A park ranger detained him for 3 hours but released him after determining his AK-47 (a selective fire assault rifle) was technically a handgun because it had no stock and a barrel shorter than 11 inches.

Embody again exhibited his affinity for open carry earlier this year by waltzing past Belle Meade Country Club with a black-powder revolver in hand.

Such radical displays, although legal, can cause shock and fear among observers. Supporters of further gun regulation argue that more guns in the public, regardless of in whose hands they are held, will only lead to more shots being fired, whether intentionally or through accidental discharge.

Many gun carriers claim that carrying a gun makes them feel safer. The opposition, however, argues that by carrying they make themselves and those around them more at risk.

At the University of Pennsylvania, Professor Charles Branas led a team which concluded through gunshot victim analysis in Philadelphia that a person carrying a gun is 4.5 times more likely to be shot than someone unarmed, *American Journal of Public Health* reports.

To settle the debate, both sides

of the argument turn to statistics from other countries to support their particular stance on the issue. Those in favor of stricter gun regulation point to the much higher homicide by firearm rate in the US, as compared to Australia or Britain - countries with a similar standard of living but much stricter gun policies.

However, Australia and Britain both have their own areas of crime weakness. Australia has a significantly higher rate of overall crime than America, such as burglary and car theft, with 30% of the population being victimized by violent crime. Britain has the highest violent crime rate in the EU, close to 4 times that of the US, according to the European Commission.

Gun activists attribute these differences to the positive influence of firearms in deterring general crime. For instance, knifings in Britain are far more common than in America, presumably because someone is more likely to pull a knife when they stand little chance of facing a gun. Guns' positive influences on crime rate, some argue, outweigh the negative of more gun-related homicides, and thus the gun question becomes an ethical one rather than a pragmatic one.

Beyond the ambiguous nature of the debate, the arguments on both sides are flawed due to the confounding variable of culture. The US could not hope to situate itself in the laws of another country and expect the same results seen in that country - too many other variables. And thus, the debate will continue to rage.

Cali's Prop 8 must be opposed

By McKay Proctor
Staff Assistant Editor

We as a society pride ourselves on equality and fairness. Indeed, in our founding document it says, "all men are created equal and endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights." The founding of our country on such pillars makes the recent uproar over the overturning of California's Proposition 8, a state constitutional amendment banning same-sex marriages, seem strange to me.

On one hand, we as a country believe wholeheartedly that every man and woman in the world has the right to liberty and the pursuit of happiness, but on the other hand, when a District judge decides to allow a group of people to do what they please, there is a bunch of screaming and sign waving.

The arguments for Proposition 8 are twofold. First there is the assertion that same-sex marriage is against Judeo-Christian morality. Indeed a chapter in Leviticus prohibits a man to lie with anyone but a woman. Also forbidden

in Leviticus: eating shellfish (Lev 11:10), wearing clothing of a mix of wool and cotton (Lev 19:19), shaving your beard (19:27), and the list goes on to prohibit eating catfish and animals that don't have split hooves. Based on Judeo-Christian doctrine, it would be equally as well grounded to enforce any one of these mandates as to enforce the one for heterosexual marriage.

Even if forbidding homosexuality is the most important "thou shalt not" in a book full of them, it shouldn't be the position of government to enforce it. The separation of church and state means that the government, to remain secular, can't endorse any one moral code. This allows for that freedom of choice that so many people love.

The next argument against homosexual marriage is that it diminishes the institution of marriage, also stemming from a religious logic. But since the gay divorce rate is, in statistics from Massachusetts and Connecticut, far lower than that among "traditional marriages," it seems to me that homosexuals take "til death do us part" a lot more seriously.

Where Proposition 8 falls apart is that its logic is either faulty or based in bigotry. Homosexuals are human, endowed by their creator with the right to liberty and the pursuit of happiness. When I see these rallies for Proposition 8, or against gay marriage in general, I can't help but liken them to protests against the desegregation of schools in the sixties. In the same vein, I see the denial of marriage rights to gay couples as a violation of civil rights. Homosexuals are human, as tough as it is for some people to accept, and it is not the role of government to say that they don't love whom they love enough, or that their union not natural enough to give a marriage license.

And so, this brings us back to Proposition 8. When we view the decision as an issue of human rights mandated by the Constitution as opposed to one of morality, it only makes sense that Judge Walker decided that the law was unconstitutional.

I hope that we as a society can move past all of this bickering and toward a society founded on coexistence that pays no heed to sexual preference, a society we can never find so long as legislation like California's Proposition 8 exists.

We should not change the 14th Amendment

By Jesse Suh
Staff Editor/Analyst

Anyone who has taken U.S. History at MBA can recall *Dred Scott v. Sandford* as a landmark court decision that helped define the era of institutional racism and slavery. For the people who don't quite remember the specifics of the decision and the microbes/freshman who have yet to take the class, the Supreme Court ruled that African Americans who were slaves or were descendants of slaves were not considered United States citizens and weren't protected under the Constitution.

What if, in the current political climate, the same Republican Party which helped overrule the decision with the Fourteenth Amendment are now actively seeking to reverse over a century of precedent that allows any person born within the United States to be considered a United States citizen?

Sadly, Republicans in both the House and Senate have endorsed altering the Fourteenth Amendment to outlaw giving citizenship to people born in the United States from non-citizens. Not only is this course of policy ethically and pragmatically misguided, but the idea is disturbing because it is clearly a political ploy in order to eliminate a constituency with which the GOP hasn't had much political success.

Ethically, abrogating birthright citizenship is a contradiction of decades of court precedent and constitutional ideal. The Fourteenth Amendment, which Republicans would like to revise, is the basis not only for reversing *Dred Scott v. Sandford*, but the Amendment also served the grounds for landmark court decisions like *U.S. v. Wong Kim Ark* in 1898 which ruled in favor of Wong Kim Ark, a Chinese-American with American citizenship, who was denied entrance back into the United States after visiting his parents in China.

The Amendment was also applied to allow citizens of the Confederacy to rejoin the United States after the Civil War. Most recently in 1982, the Fourteenth Amendment served to resolve *Plyler v. Doe*, which ruled in favor of allowing citizens born from non-citizen parents the right to public schooling in Texas.

Even as the Fourteenth Amendment has been used to reinforce the idea of America as a "melting pot" built and strengthened by many different ethnicities, ethnic conflict still plagues many parts of the world today. Birthright citizenship is a symbol of an American attempt to look past ethnic differences.

Pragmatically, changing the Amendment wouldn't make any sense. Abrogating birthright citizenship would make birth certificates useless, and there is

14th Amendment

Section 1: No state may abridge the privileges and immunities of any of its citizens, or deny them due process of law or equal protection of the laws.

Section 2: When any state denies the right to vote at any election to any of its male citizens of voting age, its representation in elections for national

Part of the 14th Amendment reads, "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside." This has been challenged recently because of the illegal immigrant question. Photo courtesy of Google Images.

no other way of determining citizenship. The only conceivable method of keeping track of all citizens would be a national registry, which doesn't exist and would have no guidelines for determining citizenship. Determining citizenship would become increasingly difficult because, as West Point professor Margaret Stock explains: "The government would have to adjudicate the citizenship status of every child born within U.S. borders based on the exceedingly complex rules of derivative citizenship, or citizenship by blood. Currently, [it] takes more than a year to make such determinations, and the process is expensive and fraught with error."

Despite problems with reform, Republicans seem resolute in their determination, and the only identifiable reason is the effect that the growing constituency of Mexican-Americans may have on the GOP's chances at staying politically relevant in the long term. Mexican-Americans are the fastest growing ethnic group in

the United States, mainly due to children in the United States born of illegal immigrants. Republicans must feel threatened by the growing Mexican-American demographic which has generally swayed toward the left.

The most telling example of the growing Mexican-American vote may be that from 2004 to 2008 the number of Mexican-Americans votes for the Democratic presidential candidate in Texas increased by over five percent. Instead of trying to win the Hispanic vote, Republican strategists seem content to try and wish them away and stick with their traditional constituency. Revoking birthright citizenship would accomplish this by revoking citizenship for millions of people currently identified as American citizens.

The shaping of policies for party self-interest is a dangerous practice which should prompt people to question whom exactly our government is elected to serve.



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Signed,


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Dubsley debuts in Senior News, lives up to hype

By John Wyse
Staff News Gatherer

I wasn't sure how to begin my first class news article, but after careful consideration I have chosen to start off my career with an ancient and wise aphorism: "Hey there, sunshine, keep your chin up; not everyone eats bagelbites with marshmallows." —foojerington

On that note, the senior class has had quite a busy summer. If I had to pick one word to sum it all up, it would be impossible, but if I had two words, they would definitely be Catherine Smith.

Many of us travelled across the world on exchange or through a language grant. **Paul Baker** informs me that his trip to France with **Doug McWilliams** was "quite a life-changing ordeal." Glad to hear it, Paul! Doug added, "Seecesta."

Andrew Powell and **Jack Hallemann** jumped out of a plane from 14,000 feet over Wollongong, Australia. **Ben Crook**, **Hayes McCord**, and **John Wyse** chased kangaroos in the Australian bush. However, the highlight of the trip undoubtedly came when both **Stankle** and **Hayezie** became Grand Masters of Peggle Nights. In joyous celebration **Ben** erupted with a powerful, "Eh heh heh heh honkey!" **Hayes** remains firm in the belief that it was the skinny jeans which propelled him to eternal victory.

Will "Oceanspray" Granbery had major success in a Shanghai nightclub. **Ian Sharbel** also told me that he stood in a kiosk in China. Great story, Ian.

Warren Smith was going to tell me a funny story to write, but then stopped because he realized he wasn't funny and frankly neither was the story.

Van East still takes crack every morning and loves football. He was too busy practicing his **John Wall** dance to comment, but he did yell, "WOOOOOOO!"

Ben Coode is still wondering what



Andrew Wright sports his summer growth at the Big Brother/Little Brother kickoff. But yes, he had to shave it before entering.

Larry is doing over there. **Jack Warne** spent his whole summer thinking of even crazier ways of wishing people "happy birthday" on Facebook.

On the prowl for his next business enterprise, **Scott Gould** along with **Jojo Guerre**, **Clay Garrett**, **Mason Kirkpatrick**, and **Dougefresh** set up the most successful lemonade stand in the history of Deer Park Circle. You just have to admire that kind of initiative and ambition. Round of applause, boys.

Chase Lovelace, **Matthew Johnson**, **Joe Riegle**, **Alex Hunt**, and **Twinkie** led the Barracuda charge as Belle Meade Country Club snatched the summer league, city swimming championship. CHOMP! CHOMP! CHOMP!

Alex and Mason Foote have once again postponed their golf managerial dreams. Good luck in college! (Which, by the way, they are working very hard to get into.)

Will Norton says that if I were a YouTube video, he would give me a thumbs down. Ouch. As a rebuttal, I would like to publicly announce that I think slide-rules are dumb. But, anyway, **Dubnort** is now a devout Pink Floyd fan. Congrats, Will!

Tophersandwith claims that he saw our beloved **Coach Cheevers** with a bit of a bruised and cut face. He will probably come into our advisory with some half-baked story involving a girl jumping on his back and causing him to fall, but who knows what really happened...

Partha Reddy was terribly upset when he found out that **Chris Johnson** was not actually coming to registration. Sorry, big man. He shouted the news to his entire Indian village and was thoroughly embarrassed when he discovered the truth. No

Left: Van East poses for a picture with his little buddy...just kidding, Tom:)

Top right: Dubnort pretended to be friendly to his little brother, but moments later destroyed him ruthlessly in battleball. Seniors win.

All photos on this page are courtesy of Mr. Jamie Tillman via smugmug.com

worries, though, **Tre 4** is gaining more street cred every day.

An anonymous source would like to inform the class that **Jack Hallemann** and **Will Farrar** have more in common than we might think. Hmm.

"Messy" **Jesse Suh** spent a lot of his summer at debate camp and says his self-esteem is way up. He plans to "utilize this skill with the womenz." We're all rootin' for you, man.

Michael Peters ran to Oregon and back. Twice.

Hiller Miggins has been daydreaming all summer about the next buck-fest. "I just can't wait," he said. "It's gonna be the greatest thing since the last buckfest." He also started back up with his habit of eating paper.

Ford Altenbern and **Chris Goodrich** spent their summers at a theatre camp in preparation for the fall production, "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee." **Gage Baxter** and **Andrew Wright** will also be starring in it alongside them.

Nick Kohler is still engaged. Sorry, ladies. It is also rumored that he bathed once. Baby steps.

Matthew Johnson is still Getting' Buck.



Air Tod can still get rim. That's beast.

Christian Alford is mad gangsta, and he stabs people that get in his way.

I'd like to give you another update of the ones we used to know. **Hunter Pie** is a gimp. **Devin McClain** loves makin' his momma proud. **Will Means** is doing something stupid. **Jonathan Coffey** is flexin' in front of a mirror. **Lemez** is picking out sweater vests. **Alex Blanton** is starting a Chip-O-Matic league with the makers of slamball. And finally, **Lee Srebnick** has been given the first ever scholarship to play club lax. Word.

That's all I got. Hope everyone had a good summer. Get swole. Roll Red.

Juniors already count down days to summer

By Joe Scherrer and Will Stewart
Staff News Writers

Baker Swain has just returned from France with his swagger level radically increased; thus, he shall henceforth be known to all as "Swaggah Swain".

Matt Anderson, who's probably around 34 years old by now, is excited for the new school year due to the fact that he will now have much more time to practice contorting his arms behind his back.

After an eventful but ultimately unsuccessful experiment in interspecies relations, **Gray Curtis** has returned to the ocean where he was born in order to live out the rest of his years with his dolphin brethren.

Adam Hawiger invented a magical peptide that cures every disease except Russian flu, and he recently robbed a multi-billion dollar Swiss bank with only his sweet aviator glasses and classy Polish charm. Quote: "You didn't hear nuthin' either, bud."

Kelly Haselton has come back from debate camp with a new outlook on life. He now loves all living creatures and has personally told me to spread the word that he wants a hug from each and every person he sees on the first day of school.

Michael Kosson thinks he's really

cool because he's been hanging out with Vandybeauties and blowing stuff up over at some godforsaken civil engineering lab.

Karthik Sastry is "just a funny guy." He also went skydiving over the moon and decided to drop support of Obama's policies in favor of Basil Marcueax Dot Com's gun control laws. **Wills Brooks**, however, is sticking to the cult of Ron Paul.

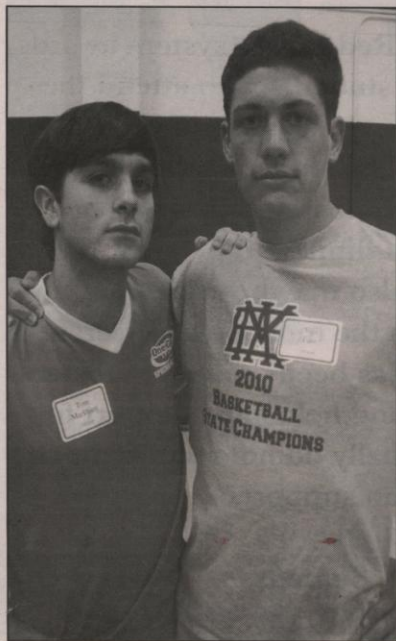
Zach Chen is coming back to school refreshed and ready to start the year, having spent the entire summer listening to Billy Joel and playing Need for Speed.

Having just recently conquered the eastern seaboard using his army of mutant fish, **Joe Scherrer** is planning to scale back his plans for the next few months so he can focus on his studies and, of course, his unending war with **Adam Bowman**. (Who let that kid in here?)

Tim Bulso says, "THE USUAL SUMMER STUFF!" **Daniel Bellet** says, "YOKAYYYY MEANN!" **Rett Hooper** says, "Cat poop."

Gray Jones was doing "conservative stuff" with **Scott Dalton** and **Daniel Peters** in Da Hood, er, Antioch, but regrets that he didn't get shot in the back or else he would have something to talk about for the newspaper. There's always a next time, Gray...

Everyone have a great year! And remember, summer is only 283 days away.



Sophs say summer was stanky

By McLean Hudson
Staff News Gatherer

If you're reading this, then you're at school again to start the new year, and for that I'm sorry. At least, though, we're all coming off a long summer break. If you play football, however, you never really left and probably spent more time at school this summer than in your own bed. The school year is ready to start, though, so there's nothing we can do but move forward, except remember what we did over the break...

Kevin Wang spent the summer traveling to Aspen, Switzerland, France, and China, while **John Tully** worked his stanky dance moves at multiple parties. **Dallas Gibson** got bored of CoD, **Mark Lowe** went golfing, and **Nathan Fouts** ate pizza. **Brooks Best** went to Gulf Shores and saw the oil from the spill. **Ryan Potter** has boosted in CoD, according to an anonymous source--I expected better from you, Potter. **Tom Dodson** was spotted working at Whitworth by **McKay Proctor**. Apparently, he gets paid \$9 an hour to work out and play guitar, and I just realized Tom doesn't even go to MBA anymore.

Hunter Tidwell rode a Segway and was mind-boggled by the movie *Inception*. **Christian Sargent** went back-to-school shoe-shopping, and **Adam Bowman** did something sciency (I have no idea what he did, but that's my best guess). **Will McFadden** finally got a Facebook, **Hamilton Millwee** was pressured to make out with a girl at camp, and **Tate Ramsden** wore some schnazzy suspenders to church. Meanwhile, **Jack Rhodes** got big, **Jake Simons** made Johnny, and **Jack Benton** christened his car "The Rocket."

A few weeks ago, **Furman Haynes** missed a day of football. Why, you ask? He cut his forehead playing ping-pong. **Jake Macey** caught his first Pokemon, and **Chandler Burgess** has reportedly hit puberty (his words, not mine). **Robert Papel** went to debate camp with **Tarun Mallipreddi** (say wah?) and **Mr. Tate**. A short time later he went canoeing in Minnesota, where he cut the head off a fish and was stranded on an island.

Frank Vest was pulled over for speeding in a golf cart, and then proceeded to chase the golf cart at one in the morning after being ditched on an island. How did he get to this island? I don't know, but maybe he saw **Pap Daddy** there.

Early this summer in spring practice, **Franklin Garstin** hurt his leg and will likely miss the entire football season. In other football news, **Clint Smith** will be the varsity punter, and **Landon Bullock** will likely be the varsity place-kicker. **Dylan Hall** might get snaps at QB early in the season due to **Aaron Simonis'** unfortunate injury in the first scrimmage of the year.

Several people told me to write about **Taylor Groom**, but I'm not sure why or about what, so I'll leave it at that. **Andy Seay** drank green tea and listened to "Modest Mouse." **B.I.** and **Furman Haynes**, along with **Jackson Flora**, did not roll **Mark Lowe's** house. But even if they did, the house would still look fine because the Lowe's driveway was imported from France. **Sam Turner** and **Patrick Moody** are total bros because they jumped off a 60-ft waterfall. **Slammy T.** almost died when he hit a rock 5 feet below the surface, which resulted in him having a blue underside for several days. **Sam and Davidson**

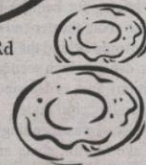
White hung out with **John Wyse** and **Scott Gould**, and it was chill. **Andrew Dobbs**, **Matt McPherson**, and **Falkner Werkhaven** had a dandy time lifeguarding over at the JCC with **Yvonne Hall**.

Sam Waitt just wanted to start the year off by spelling your name right. If it's wrong again, I swear it's my editor's fault.

As for the upcoming year's ambitions: **Mohammad Azamtarrhian** intends to be more gregarious, and **John Wheeler** will attempt to make it through the football season without getting hurt. I aim to once again dominate **Señor Golenor's** sixth period fantasy football league, and **Landon Bullock** will attempt to wear Abercrombie, American Eagle, or a mix of the



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two every single day of the first semester.

Hopefully you all got bored of reading this and have stopped by now, because I never came up with an ending.

Frosh all giddy about starting high school

By Wells Hamilton
Staff Writer

It is the summer of anticipation for the freshman class as the boys leave the junior school and hurdle toward a fresh start, in high school.

The main occupation of freshmen during the summer has been practicing sports in preparation for the school year. Summer reading has once again taken its place as an activity reserved for the days of August.

Football is already in full swing, with routine freshman practices during the summer. The team appears to be shaping up well, with the exception of the quarterback situation. Prior to the end of the eighth-grade year, there were two quarterbacks, **Jordan Roundtree** and **Tucker Voges**. Following Jordan's departure from MBA, Tucker was the only remaining quarterback. Tucker explained that "Since Jordan left, it has opened up spots for a quarterback. Since Jordan and I were the only two quarterbacks last year, **David Harrison**, **Colton Black**, and **Keith Gambill** are getting to try." Personally, I am quite interested to see what the new quarterbacks can accomplish for the team.

There is more interesting news regarding freshmen and football. **Jashon Robertson** is to play tight end for the MBA varsity team, probably starting. I asked Jashon his opinion on playing varsity as a freshman, to which he said "It's fun, and it's just a whole different level of intensity. I love it." It will be very exciting to see what Jashon can do during the season.

Rifery is also in full swing. "(Rifery) is going great. (The rifle team) went to a rifle camp, had summer practice, and a

strength and conditioning week," comments **Brandon Carpenter**.

It appears that the freshman athletes will be contributing heavily to their respective sports teams. The freshman class will also be adding eighteen new students: **Nick Boney**, **Brad Cavanaugh**, **Harrison Davis**, **Tony Drew**, **Hayden Gregory**, **Sam Gregory**, **Benjamin Hays**, **Bryson Jarrett**, **Coleman Kelly**, **Tarun Mallipreddi**, **DJ Mott**, **Bailey Perrone**, **Grey Reams**, **Jack Thompson**, **Jordan Whitaker**, **Ben Yahnian**, **John Yoder**, and **Justin Yoon**.

The freshman summer reading list included the all-school read, *Mountains Beyond Mountains*, and *A Lesson Before Dying* which both honors and regulars classes read. *Red Sky at Morning* was also read by the freshman in regular English. *The Natural* was read by the freshman in honors English.

The students in both classes were able to select from five other choice books including: *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian*, *Dracula*, *The Genocides*, *The Great Santini*, and *The Maltese Falcon*. Many students chose to read *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian*, not because it was short or the first choice on the list, but because many freshmen are interested in the struggle of a Native American struggling against the limits of his reservation. The freshmen tended to find this year's selection for the all school read to be mind-numbing, but perhaps the English teachers will be able to sway their views on the book. Nevertheless, the freshman persevered through their reading lists in the last weeks before school, thankful that they were not being asked to make shoebox dioramas anymore.

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MBA theater grad has terrible accident

By Andrew Powell
Editor-in-Chief

Ryan Penney ('09) has always been a happy guy. Through his years at MBA, Ryan was known for being a loyal friend, passionate about theater and dance (he was the mastermind behind the first choreographed Prom dance, which seems to be becoming a tradition), and, as described by a classmate, a generally "chill dude."

Ryan was spending Sunday June 13th on Lake Martin, about an hour outside of Birmingham, with his girlfriend's family. They visited a popular landmark known as Chimney Rock, which features a number of ledges over the water, including a 60-foot cliff. Many people jump from the rock every year – it seems harmless, particularly to a fit 20-year-old man – and Ryan decided to give it a go after jumping off a lower cliff twice. "I didn't see any real danger," Penney recalls.

He landed with his leg slightly spread and in a seated position. The impact of the water was enough to shatter his 12th thoracic vertebra, resulting in a burst fracture that retro-pulsed into his spinal cord.

The pain was immediate. Ryan remembers looking down into the water, as he called for help, and seeing his legs just lying there, in that same, somewhat seated position.

His friends pulled him from the water and called 911. They met an ambulance at nearby Ridge Marina 20 minutes later, where the paramedics immediately called for a life flight to Montgomery, the nearest major medical center, and drove to await the chopper in a field.

After a CT scan and MRI in Montgomery, doctors determined he needed surgery and life-flighted him to UAB Neuroscience Intensive Care Unit. More MRI's followed, the neurosurgeon was called, and the surgery scheduled for first thing the next morning.

Two trauma surgeons and a specialist neurosurgeon operated on Ryan for six hours, working to remove the shattered

vertebra and replace it with a cage-holding bone from a bone bank that will eventually graft to his surrounding vertebrae. Two steel rods were inserted to replace the shredded ligaments supporting his spine at the point of injury.

Ryan's road to recovery is a long one, measured first in feeling and twitches that eventually become small movements. The feeling of someone tickling his foot a few days after the surgery has never been so welcome. To be able to clench his quads a few days later has never felt so rewarding. To be able to stand under his own power has never before been such a victory.

Ryan is currently at The Shepherd Center in Atlanta, a world-renowned spinal cord and brain injury rehab hospital, participating in the Shepherd Step program, a brand new rehab initiative designed specifically for patients like Ryan who show a lot of promise for walking.

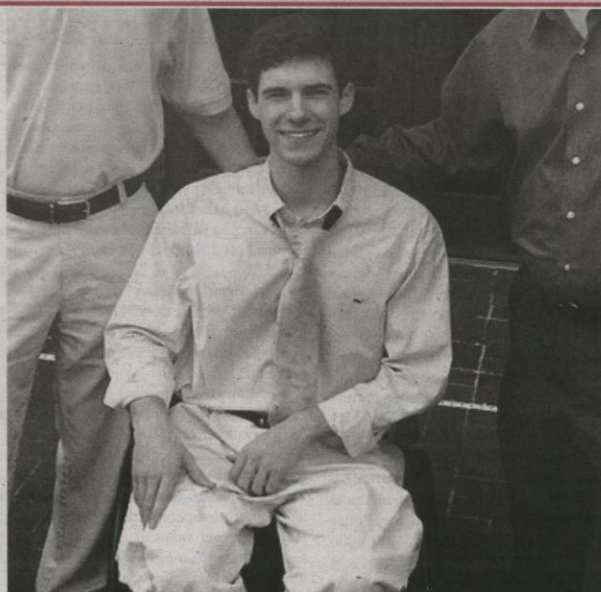
And, Ryan says, things are going very well. He spends time on a weightless treadmill every day, with four therapists working with him to help him regain his gait. After hours and hours of work, Ryan is able to walk around with leg braces and a walker and is showing improvement with each and every day.

Ryan Penney is an inspiration. He has every right to be mad and saddened; instead, Ryan is happy. Even more, he is joyful. He seems almost thankful for his accident—it has opened his eyes, he says, strengthened his faith, and reorganized his priorities.

A rising sophomore at Samford, Penney continues to pursue his passions beyond the Hill. He is a musical theater major and was scheduled to perform in The Red

Mountain Theatre Company's production of *The Sound of Music* this fall. While Ryan cannot act in the show, its three-week run was dedicated to him. In addition, Mr. Keith Cromwell, the Executive Director of the theater company, has set up a fund towards his recovery.

You can keep up with his recovery at <ryanrecovery.blogspot.com>.



Ryan Penney at opening night of *The Sound of Music*. Instead of playing the part of understudy for Rolf, Ryan was the guest of honor as the 3-week run of the show was dedicated to him. Photo courtesy of Diane Penney.

Club News Spotlight:

Werthan with Werthan: The 2010-2011 Chess Club Season Preview

By Max Werthan
Co-News Editor

The MBA Chess Club is the fastest growing club in MBA history. Last year alone, the club grew from two members to approximately fifty full-time members. I decided to interview the returning president of the Chess Club, Max Werthan, to see what the hub-bub was all about.

Reporter Werthan: The Chess Club had only two members to start last year. How did you assume the role of president?

President Werthan: My passion for the game of chess drove me to nominate myself for the office of president last year. I faced stern opposition from then-Sophomore Joe Scherrer. Luckily for yours truly, I am the superior foosball player. I beat Joe 5-4 for the presidency.

Reporter Werthan: How do you account for the monumental increase in membership last year?

President Werthan: There were numerous factors in the 2009 Chess Club expansion. First-year Chess Club sponsor Mike Davidson provided instrumental leadership, guidance, and equipment. It was Mr. Davidson who decided to post the incredibly popular chess puzzles around campus. The well-crafted flyers drew newcomers to the meetings in large numbers. Students have played chess in the library for years, but last year was really the first year in which students felt the urge to go to the meetings.

Reporter Werthan: Last year's chess tournament was a huge success. Will there be another tournament for the 2010-2011 chess season?

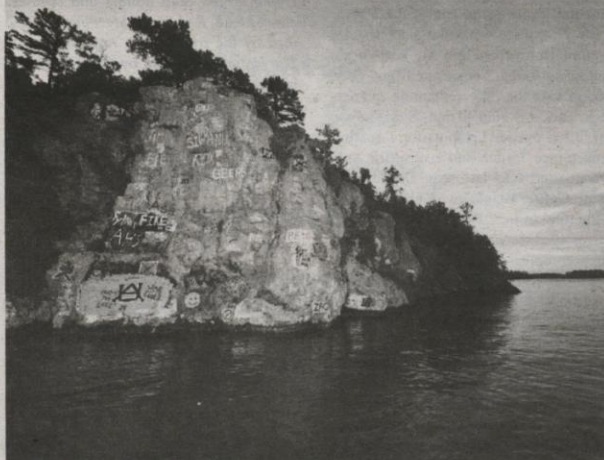


Building momentum, 2010 promises to be a good season for Big Red Chess.

President Werthan: I am pleased to inform you that there will be at least one all-school tournament next year with the possibility of more. Additionally, there will likely be smaller club tournaments every month. There will be a new chess puzzle every week. Also, there is a possibility of interscholastic competition with other Nashville-area schools.

Reporter Werthan: It seems that chessboxing is the cool new thing in chess these days. Are there plans for chessboxing tournaments for the club this year?

President Werthan: I don't want to rule anything out, but the lack of a boxing club/team as well as the legality issues of fighting on campus makes chessboxing on campus unlikely next year. The Chess Club is open to a partnership with a boxing club, like the Chess Club-Riddlers' Club alliance of last year, if such a boxing club is created.



The impact after a leap from Acapulco Rock, more commonly known as Chimney Rock, on Lake Martin, AL, broke Penney's back. Photo courtesy of Kenneth Boone

Spain trip proves to be life-changing experience

...continued from page 1

these people. I shared some of my deepest emotions, at times talking for almost an hour straight with certain friends, and even found myself able to make them laugh, a significant accomplishment for someone like me, who previously felt stifled by an inability to transfer his sense of humor across the language barrier.

The culmination of my journey, following the two and a half weeks spent

in Vilagarcía, was a group trek along the final portion of the *Camino de Santiago*, an ancient pilgrimage route across Europe that ends in the magnificent city of Santiago. Across 111km of picturesque farmland, mountains, forests, *pueblos* and hostels, I continued finding fruitful opportunities to break through my comfort zone. I met and chatted with tons of strangers from all over Spain, experiencing different accents and backgrounds and making friends in the

strangest places.

It is extremely difficult to try and sum up a month of such rich experience in just a few lines, and I am still returning emotionally from my expedition even though I arrived back home after just one painful day of travel. Although my time there has ended, it still lives with me and continues to affect who I am. I was changed in Spain, and I hope that my life in the future serves as a pleasant reminder of that fact.

I encourage everyone who reads this to seek such opportunities. An amazing precedent has been set this year at MBA, one that hopefully will be repeated time and time again in the future. I hope to be just one of many explorers of land, culture, and population that pass through our school.

The way of adventure is always open. Find it and embrace it, because life is unhealthy without it.

A new Spanish teacher gets involved in many areas

By Sam Weien
Staff Writer

Mr. Connor Kamm grew up in Utah and just graduated from Williams College in Massachusetts. His addition to the MBA family came about due to the rise in the Spanish enrollment and because Ms. Lanigan, the teacher for all of the Spanish II and Spanish II honors classes, wants to become part time.

Bell Ringer: How did you end up at MBA?

Mr. Kamm: I ended up at MBA because I had sent a teaching profile containing a resume and letters of references to a bunch of schools around the country, including MBA, and Mr. Gioia gave me a call to come down and interview towards the end of May. I had a really great visit while I was down here, and I got to meet a lot of the students, all of whom were very kind and receptive. In the end, it came down to a decision between MBA and another all-boys school up north in Connecticut, but I had enjoyed my time so much during my visit in Nashville that MBA was the easy choice.

BR: Are you excited or anxious about beginning to teach?

M.K.: I would say I am both excited and anxious about beginning to teach. I've worked with kids a lot in the past as a camp counselor and as a tutor, but obviously teaching is something very different and comes with a lot of responsibility.

BR: How did you choose Spanish as a major in college?

M.K.: I had always liked Spanish throughout high school. When I got to Williams College, a small liberal arts school in Massachusetts, and took my first Spanish literature class called *Cultures of Spain*, I knew that Spanish was for me. Since then,

I have had the opportunity to study and travel in several Spanish-speaking countries, including Argentina, Spain, Mexico, Peru and Uruguay.

BR: Did you have anyone in your past who inspired you to study Spanish in college?

M.K.: I, along with everyone in my junior high, had to start taking a language in the 7th or 8th grade. My dad speaks pretty good Spanish after taking AP Spanish Lit in high school and spending a semester in Mexico studying abroad, so he would always speak a little Spanish every now and then, and I thought it was pretty neat. Around the time when I was going to be starting a language, my family took a trip to Mexico over spring break, and I really enjoyed it and decided that Spanish was the language that I wanted to study.

BR: What extracurricular activities do you want to do at MBA?

M.K.: At MBA, I will be an assistant coach of both cross-country and track. I am particularly excited to work with the XC team because, after returning 6 of the 7 top runners from a state championship team, I think they have an incredible amount of potential. I am also planning to help out with the Jazz Band. I have been playing jazz trumpet since I was in elementary school, so it is something very near and dear to my heart.

BR: What else did you do in college besides study Spanish?

M.K.: In college, I was very involved with both running and music. In the music department, I played in several groups including the symphonic winds, the big jazz ensemble and several small jazz combos, in addition to serving as the TA for the Jazz department. In terms of running, I did either XC, indoor track, or outdoor track

every season at Williams. I had some success my freshman year, followed by a couple years of injury. Finally, in my senior year, I had a breakout season, helping the XC team along to a second place finish at nationals, setting a PR of 3:49 in the 1500m (equates to a 4:07 mile) and winning the NCAA DIII national championship in the 5k.

BR: Do you have any pet peeves as a teacher?

M.K.: I guess I'll find out about my pet peeves once I start teaching!

BR: What is your favorite thing about the South so far?

M.K.: Everyone I have met here in the South is incredibly nice. For example, during my first week here, I had my keys stolen while I was out on a run, and I was locked out of my house. With no spare key and no where to turn, I knocked on a neighbor's door for help. The man, an MBA alum as it turns out, invited me in, gave me his cell phone and laptop and offered me granola bars and Gatorade. The next day the same man invited me over to his house for a barbecue with him and a bunch of his friends from MBA. It was a great time, and it was nice to know that I am living in a community with so many nice people.

BR: Growing up in Utah, do you ski, snowboard, or both?

M.K.: Back in Utah, I started skiing just a few months after I learned to walk, and I have never turned back. When I started running competitively, I wasn't able to ski



Mr. Connor Kamm (#5) ran for Williams College, winning the Men's Division III 5,000m at the end of his senior season. He will help coach Cross Country and Track at MBA. Photo courtesy of Williams College

as often, but every time I am home, I hit the slopes with my family.

BR: Did you ever participate in the Williams College trivia contest? If so, did you ever do well?

M.K.: I have never done a trivia contest.

BR: Do you like country music?

M.K.: I used to hate country music, but at Williams I had a couple of friends who were obsessed with it, so I ended up hearing it quite a bit. Eventually, I realized that it is pretty catchy music that is usually fun to listen to. A couple of my nights here, I have gone downtown to listen to live music and I have heard some pretty good country groups, so I think it is growing on me.

BR: What is your favorite movie?

M.K.: Not sure on my favorite movie. In the "stupid comedy" category, it probably has to be *Zoolander* or *Ground Hog's Day*. Those are the only two I can think of off the top of my head.

Student wins scholarship; Dr. Li continues excellence

By Anderson Gaither
Foreign Languages Department
Chairman

For several reasons MBA Chinese teacher Dr. Li should feel very proud. One of Dr. Li's students, Austin Locke, who graduated last spring, has won a Chinese government scholarship to study in the Advanced Chinese Program at the prestigious Beijing Language and Culture University from September of 2010 through July of 2011. This scholarship covers his tuition,

lodging, medical care, learning materials, and a living allowance. This is a remarkable achievement and honor for Austin, as well as for Dr. Li.

Including Austin, Dr. Li now has three of her former students in China. Dalton Fouts, who also graduated this past spring, will be teaching English in China this year. Another MBA graduate, Alec Martin (class of '08), will be studying in China during the first semester. He is at Columbia University in New York, majoring in Chinese and Asian Studies.

Dr. Li herself has had a fantastic year. Almost exactly one year ago, in the summer of '09, her A.P. class became the first such class in Tennessee to gain A.P. accreditation.

She followed this by continuing work toward her PhD, which she received in May of this year. Raising a family, working full time, and writing a doctoral dissertation require not only great intelligence, but also incredible energy and good temperament.

Word of Dr. Li's masterful teaching style has spread throughout the school,

and even beyond. From one small, first-year class four years ago when she joined MBA, this year Dr. Li has two sections of Chinese I, containing 16 students. In Chinese II this year there will be 12 students, and 8 students in the third-year course. The growth in her enrollments has been unparalleled. She has built the Chinese program carefully and expertly.

MBA is very lucky to have Dr. Li among its teachers.

MBA is actually not alone - set to host IBSC conference

By Daniel Mace
Staff Writer

Life at MBA often leads one to believe our school to be the only one of its kind. With phrases like "MBA is on a hill," it becomes quite simple to assume that our institution is both unique and alone. While this attitude is somewhat self-righteous and close-minded, there is some truth to the idea that as an all-boys prep school, MBA may seem to some an antiquated and rare form of education.

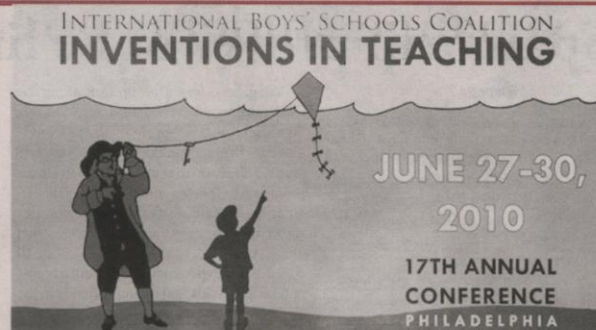
While MBA has preserved itself throughout the years as a bastion of Y-chromosomes, the list of all-boy schools in Nashville has dwindled over the years until only MBA remains. In fact, our school remains one of the few all-boy schools throughout all of Tennessee, essentially sticking it to feminists for over one hundred forty years. Father Ryan and BGA were all-boys schools which went coed in the 1970's.

With the idea of preserving the all-boy style of education, dress codes,

demerits, and other "traditional values," a conference of similar schools across the country gathered about twenty years ago in Boston to discuss the future of an all-boy education. Public opinion around this time seemed to believe that the need for an all-boy education was merely an excuse for another exclusive, old-fashioned institution. Many boys' schools feared that the history and value of a male education would soon become merely a part of the past.

Since its start twenty years ago and with now annual conferences, MBA and other similar schools around the country have been able to show a need for varied methods of educating. Their thought is that an all-boy education is not meant as an exclusive divide, but simply another choice for educating boys. Essentially, these schools wanted to show a current and future need for an education that tailored to the specific needs of boys.

Twenty years later, the yearly conference has expanded to include over six hundred teachers from boy's schools span-



The most recent International Boys' School Coalition conference was held at the Haverford School in Philadelphia, PA this June. Photo courtesy of Google Images.

ning the globe. At this year's conference that took place this June at the Haverford School in Philadelphia, MBA sent 10 of its faculty, including Mr. Gioia himself. The programs vary each year but generally center on talks about understanding boys and developing a curriculum to inspire young men, as well as the specific issues a boys' school encounters. For instance, one of the topics this year was about the new field of robotics, and the benefit of this hands-on course at an all-boy institution.

These yearly conferences also serve as a meeting place for schools across several continents, including Africa, South America, and Asia, allowing a more global

perspective on the educating of young men. Additionally, these yearly gatherings have helped establish several exchange programs over the years, with the promise of more connections with each conference.

With continued participation in this collection of similar institutions, MBA has helped preserve our future. While our history is often praised as our most valuable asset, it is arguably just as crucial to ensure our future. Though MBA has retained many of its old ways, there is also a constant struggle to evolve and promote new ways of learning. In continuing our school's improvement, we can provide a better education for the generations to follow us.

'06 grad returns to Hill, speaks with *The Bell Ringer*



Although Andrew Wright put up a good fight, *The Bell Ringer* staff concludes that Mr. Nelson Berry wins the facial hair duel. Alas, seniors do not win...this time. Photos courtesy of Mr. Jamie Tillman

By Sam Weien
Staff Writer

Mr. Nelson Berry is an MBA graduate (2006) who attended The University of the South at Seawanee and is coming back to MBA fresh out of college. He is replacing Mr. DeYoung and will teach Latin II and Latin II honors.

Bell Ringer: How did you end up at MBA?

Mr. Berry: Since my junior or senior year at MBA I have entertained the idea of returning to teach. I already had plans to become a teacher, and I often toyed with the idea of teaching specifically at MBA. Something about the teachers, the environment, and the school as a whole really touched me and made me want to return.

As I was preparing to join the job market, I asked Mr. Gioia if he would give me any advice and aid. I sent him a letter, formally detailing my wishes to teach at MBA. Soon after sending the letter, I began the application process to teach at MBA. I

submitted forms, attended interviews, taught a demo class, and eventually I was offered the position. Happily, I accepted it.

BR: Are you excited or anxious about beginning to teach?

M.B.: I am more excited than I am anxious. As I said, I have planned to be a teacher for some time now, and I am eager to have the opportunity to teach, especially at MBA, so soon.

BR: How did you choose Latin as a major in college?

M.B.: Quite easily, actually. I had already studied Latin for six years, four at MBA, and by that time I had a healthy love for the language and its writers. While at Seawanee, I rounded out my Classical Languages major with two or so years of Greek, which I also thoroughly enjoyed. To choose both languages for my major seemed only natural to me. Although I did toy with double-majoring in Theater and Classical Languages, I soon decided that I wanted more freedom to pursue other academic interests and to be able to study abroad in Rome, neither of which I would be able to do if I had chosen to double-major. Therefore, I decided to sacrifice the major in Theater in order to enjoy the academic "buffet" at Seawanee with the special "dessert" of studying in Rome.

BR: Are there any MBA teachers whom you enjoyed a lot or influenced you to study Latin in college?

M.B.: Mr. Gaither is primarily responsible for encouraging my study of Latin. I enjoyed his Latin II Honors class so much that I purposefully took the regular Latin III class to have the pleasure of his instruction again. I still peruse my neatly

filed aphorisms and derivatives and I am always mindful of them.

I also enjoyed Mr. DeYoung's Vergil class, which was the appetizer to the sort of Latin classes I would later enjoy in college.

As for other teachers I have enjoyed, Dr. Fuller greatly influenced my love of theater, and Dr. Seay encouraged me with my study of Latin and my theatrical pursuits. I could go on, but I fear that the list would be too long and would include almost every teacher I had at MBA.

BR: What extracurricular activities do you want to do at MBA?

M.B.: I would enjoy most helping with theater and lacrosse, although I am adequately prepared for other activities.

BR: What else did you do in college besides study Latin?

M.B.: I spent a fair amount of time onstage and offstage in Seawanee's theater program, and I also spent much time with the student-run theater organization of which I was elected president during my final year. Aside from theatrical endeavors, I often busied myself with the University Choir which performs at two special concerts, official university functions, and every Sunday and Christian holidays during the school year. I also spent two years in one of the several *a capella* groups on campus.

BR: Do you have any pet peeves as a teacher?

M.B.: I would say that students who do not do their work prompt annoyance.

BR: What is the biggest change at MBA since you were in high school?

M.B.: I believe the most significant change right now is the construction on what used to be Brighton Road. When I first came to Nashville, I lived in one of the houses just behind the baseball field.

BR: What sports did you play at MBA, and did you continue any in college?

M.B.: I played lacrosse for two years, and I dabbled in Ultimate Frisbee for another two years while at MBA. Unfortunately, with all my theatrical and choral involvement, I was unable to continue playing on a school team.

BR: Why did you decide to go to Seawanee?

M.B.: I already knew that Seawanee had the strong academic background I wanted, but I was not quite sold on the university as a whole. Yes, I loved the architecture and natural beauty of the campus, but I did not yet feel a personal connection there. Ultimately, I decided to attend because of the community. I spent a weekend with a student as my host who led me around campus and showed me what it truly was like to live there. I have never seen a community so welcoming and friendly as Seawanee's. When I met my best friend in my first class on the first day, I knew for certain that I had made the right choice.

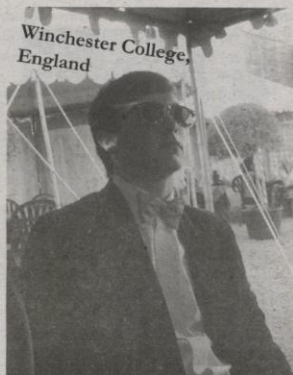
BR: Do you like country music?

M.B.: I like certain artists. The early career of Garth Brooks is my favorite of that genre.

BR: What is your favorite movie?

M.B.: *The Godfather*. I believe that everyone should see it at least once.

Exchange students go 'round the world in 2010



Top Left: Tom Markham gets his "Bond" on while at Winchester. My oh my, does he look classy!

Top Right: Hayes McCord and John Wyse try their hand at "footy" - Aussie Rules Football - while on exchange in Melbourne, Australia.

Mid Right: MBA spans the globe by sending 21 students on exchange and 25 more abroad on Wilson Language Grants.

Bottom Right: Andrew Powell and Jack Hallemann compete in the King's All-School Cross Country race. Andrew came 2nd and Jack came 10th, out of 400. Pretty much Rolled Red.

Bottom Left: Phillip Spelman and Lane Bullock went hard on the Rugby Pitch, repping the Big Red like none other.

All photos courtesy of the pictured students, via Facebook.

By Jack Hallemann
Business Manager & Staff Writer

One of the greatest opportunities MBA offers its students is the exchange program. This summer 17 rising seniors went on exchange, not including the four students who went to Eton and Greece during their junior year.

This program is such a great experience that if you're a junior, I strongly recommend that you apply for one of these trips. You get to experience a new school, a new culture, and a whole new set of girls that just loves our accents. I want to thank everyone that made these trips possible, as they were truly life-changing experiences.

Here is a review of the trips and the students who enjoyed them:

Winchester: Jesse Suh, Daniel Rundberg, and Tom Markham stayed at boarding houses at Winchester College in England. Instead of host families, Jesse and D-rund had a housemaster while Tom had a "housemistress" (that's not degrading at all). The highlight of the trip was touring London and enjoying some fish and chips at a riverside pub.

South Africa: Jack Warne and Ford Emerson attended Michaelhouse school in South Africa. They arrived just in time to enjoy the uproar that came with Spain winning the World Cup. The highlight of the trip was Durban July, aka South African Steeplechase. Shoutout to Ray Mkhulisi.

Sydney: Andrew Powell and I attended King's School in Sydney Australia. I stayed with Jules Heath while Andrew stayed with Tom Harvey. Aside from the bridge-climbing, the sky-diving, playing rugby, snorkeling the Great Barrier Reef, and learning how to surf, this exchange trip is pretty dull...Microbes, that was sarcasm; this trip is incredible. During our time at school we participated in enriching classes like carpentry and film. Shoutout to J-dawggg.

Melbourne: Hayes McCord, John Wyse, and Ben Crook went to Melbourne Grammar School in Australia. They had a blast playing Australian rules footy. The classes at MGS are a little different from MBA's, with rotating schedules, more field



trips, and a system that puts the most emphasis on senior year grades. They got to travel in to Sydney for a week as well as out to the countryside where Hayes' host student, Tom Brougham, had a house. One of the highlights was a huge Australian barbeque, which I can only imagine included some nicely cooked 'roos.

Lindisfarne: Lane Bullock and Philip Spelman attended Lindisfarne College in New Zealand. As sport participation is required at Lindisfarne, Lane and Philip both played Rugby. They also went skydiving, attended an All Blacks rugby match, and hung out on a sheep farm for a while. The uniform included some very flamboyant red blazers. As a part of their media class, they were able to work the cameras and film a tv show about cars.

Christ College: Rob Barnes and Brad Swain attended Christ College in New Zealand. This school has a really great house system where all of the boys are divided into 8 groups that compete in sports, debate, and drama: 5 points to Gryffindor! The highlight of the trip for Rob was bungie jumping into a river gorge. In other news, they both climbed

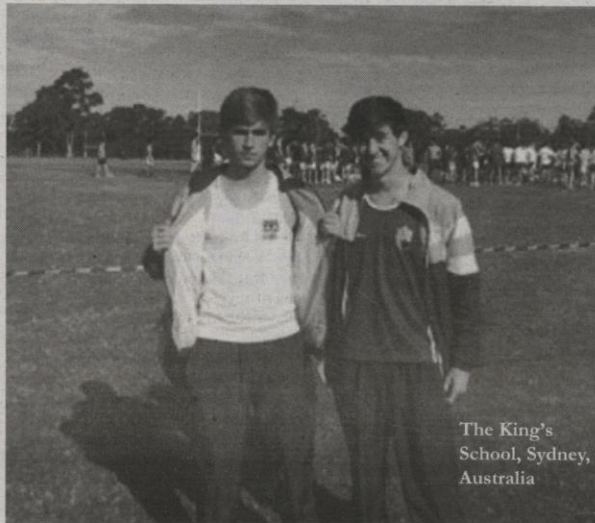
the fictional volcano of Mordor and beat up Isildur for being such a selfish sort.

China: Max Coyle and Will Lee attended Dulwich College in Beijing. While this was an English-speaking school, they were both able to speak a little Chinese during their stay. Dulwich also has a house system, but more importantly, it's a coed school (props). Aside from school, Will and Max were able to visit the Great Wall of China, Olympic Park, and Tiananmen Square. Also, Max was worshipped by strangers as a giant, and Will was sold into slavery after getting confused about exchange rates.



Lindisfarne College, New Zealand

06/23/2010



The King's School, Sydney, Australia

The Bell Ringer learns about some new teachers.....

By Jake Macey
Staff Writer

Representing *The Bell Ringer* and inquisitive students, I sought to gain some insight into a few of the teachers coming in to guide us this year.



Vivian Komando, Art teacher:

B.R.: How did you end up at MBA?

V.K.: A friend emailed that there was an art position open at MBA. I contacted Mr. Gioia and Mr. Womack and expressed my interest in the position, then had a phone interview, visited MBA in the spring for an interview on campus, and was offered the position.

B.R.: Are you excited or anxious about starting to teach at MBA?

V.K.: Oh, I am most excited and happy to be a part of the MBA family!

B.R.: How did you choose your particular field of study? Was there anyone in your past who inspired you to study it?

V.K.: My best friend, Marianne, was very artistic, but I was not, nor did I believe I would ever be artistic. I was placed in a Ceramics class my first term in college. Definitely not my choice, but I went along with it. I did enjoy the class immensely, never having had an official art class before. I signed up for every Ceramics class, then photo, then jewelry making, printmaking, and painting. I changed my major to Art Ed., yet avoided the dreaded drawing class. I did finally take drawing...and graduated...but there is more to the story – so feel free to come by and ask me about the rest of my path that has led me to MBA. And there are many that have inspired me to pursue my study of art from my friend Marianne to Dr. Steve Willis to my AP Studio Art Colleagues.

B.R.: What extracurricular activities do you want to do at MBA?

V.K.: I have multiple interests and would like to be where I would be most helpful. I believe in giving back to the community, and I have worked with the project known as The Empty Bowls to raise hunger awareness and would like to continue doing this. I do not know if this is an MBA community project here, but I would be interested in pursuing this and other service opportunities, as well as projects promoting peace. I would love to develop a photo class (no pun intended) or club and a Ceramic (wheel throwing) group after school. I think having an art magazine that would highlight student work, both in print and online, would be an endeavor I would be very interested in pursuing.

Mr. Merideth (right) gets special recognition for being the only new teacher to respond to the “Favorite animal and/or Pokemon(if any)?” question with a Pokemon! His answer: Squirtle. Well done, Mr. Merideth!

suing. I would also like to work with those students that cannot fit in an art class during their regular schedule if they are interested in submitting an AP portfolio, as well as working with others that are developing an AP Studio Art portfolio.

B.R.: What did you do in college besides study what you are now teaching?

V.K.: I worked on literary projects, as I like to write, played my guitar, and minored in Spanish.

B.R.: Do you expect to be a strict and tough teacher or pretty laid back?

V.K.: I consider myself a balanced teacher, developing a rapport with my students as we create and explore the world of art, making amazing visual expressions come to life within the art studio. This doesn't just happen because one walks into an art studio. It takes dedicated study, discourse, disciplined attitude, persistence, anticipation, investigative play, give and take, collaboration, analysis, individual perspective, the unexpected, and multiple conversations, some singularly and some not. I am here to teach, converse, listen, explore, guide, intervene, dissect, deconstruct, and synthesize with my students as we make art. Oh, and did I mention provoke – in a manner that makes my students consider themselves and their role in the world both local and global. I have found my students most engaged in the process of making art as they work, so as to labels of strict, tough, or pretty laid back, I would say I prefer not being labeled and rather say I try to be fair and open to working with each of the young men I will be teaching as we investigate, journey, and create.

B.R.: Do you own an iPhone?

V.K.: No, I'm a Verizon Dare person.

B.R.: Do you have any unique abilities or talents?

V.K.: Hmmmm, most probably, but I don't want to give away all my secrets right off.

B.R.: Coke or Pepsi?

V.K.: Diet Coke or Sprite Zero.

B.R.: Favorite animal and/or Pokemon (if any)?

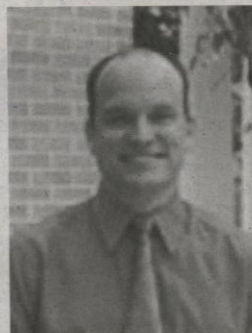
V.K.: My two Maltese, Monet and DaVinci.

B.R.: Do you like your eggs scrambled or sunny side up?

V.K.: Depends on the day of the week.

B.R.: Do you believe in global warming?

V.K.: Have you been outside this summer????



Tyler Merideth, Music teacher:

B.R.: How did you end up at MBA?

T.M.: I had taught for four years at Overton High School and heard about Dr. Cassel's retirement through the grapevine. I decided to send in a resumé, and, after my first interview, I was extremely interested!

B.R.: Are you excited or anxious about starting to teach at MBA?

T.M.: I am very excited. There are some great opportunities to work alongside top-notch teachers and very talented students.

B.R.: How did you choose your particular field of study? Was there anyone in your past who inspired you to study it?

T.M.: I chose to be a music teacher when I fell in love with teaching the youth choir at a church. Thinking back now, I had a great high school music experience with great teachers.

B.R.: What extracurricular activities do you want to do at MBA?

T.M.: Not sure yet. Is Ultimate Frisbee an option?

B.R.: What did you do in college besides study what you are now teaching?

T.M.: I took a course in Country Line Dancing to fulfill a physical education credit. My class was chosen to be in a music video that was being shown in South America to teach country line dancing.

B.R.: Do you expect to be a strict and tough teacher or pretty laid back?

T.M.: Fresh, yet disciplined.

B.R.: Do you own an iPhone?

T.M.: No, I don't. Is that a requirement at MBA?

B.R.: Do you have any unique abilities or talents?

T.M.: I know how to play Euchre.

B.R.: Coke or Pepsi?

T.M.: Coke.

B.R.: Favorite animal and/or Pokemon(if any)?

T.M.: Squirtle. (Below)



B.R.: Do you like your eggs scrambled or sunny side up?

T.M.: If those are the two choices, scrambled.

B.R.: Do you believe in global warming?

T.M.: I believe whatever Yahoo news tells me.



Tom Boysden, Tennis and English

B.R.: How did you end up at MBA?

T.B.: I have been the assistant men's tennis coach at Vanderbilt University for the last 5 years. Last month I was contacted by MBA's Athletic Director, Mr. Scott O'Neal, regarding an opening for the position of varsity head tennis coach. I met with Mr. O'Neal and Headmaster Gioia a few times, was introduced to some faculty members, took a tour of the campus and facilities ... and realized that MBA was a perfect fit for me. I was presented with an opportunity to be the varsity head tennis coach and work in the English Department and accepted the offer on the same day.

B.R.: Are you excited or anxious about starting to teach at MBA?

T.B.: I am eagerly counting down the days until the start of the school year. I am extremely excited to be starting my career at MBA. I am looking forward to getting to know the staff, faculty, students, and parents. I am ready to enthusiastically embrace each of my roles (tennis coach, English teacher, and various other areas in which I will be assisting).

B.R.: How did you choose your particular field of study? Was there anyone in your past who inspired you to study it?

T.B.: In respect to tennis, I played several team sports in my youth, but when I began playing tennis at age 12, I quickly realized how much I loved it. I played junior tournaments and was on my high school and college teams. After college I worked at several tennis clubs teaching private lessons and clinics. I began to develop a niche as a junior coach and instructor. I have been involved in some aspect of the sport ever since. My first private tennis coach, Charlie O'Brien, has been the biggest influence in my tennis career. He instilled in me a passion for tennis, for competition, and for hard work.

As for being an English teacher, I have always had a passion for writing and literature. My favorite classes in high school and college were those in which I was required to write many papers and essays. I have had a goal to someday be published for most of my adult life. I had a teacher in 7th and 8th grade, Mr. David Jacobs, who inspired me to do a lot of creative writing.

B.R.: What extracurricular activities do you want to do at MBA?

T.B.: There are so many activities that I would like to be a part of here. To name a few: the school newspaper and literary magazine, assisting the Athletic Director,

continued on page 11 ...

finds out Coach Moran doesn't own a cell phone!

...continued from page 10

doing some counseling, assisting in the library, and being involved in some service projects.

B.R.: What did you do in college besides study what you are now teaching?

T.B.: Other than getting my degree and being a member of the tennis team, I worked at two different tennis clubs while in school. That took up most of my free time.

B.R.: Do you expect to be a strict and tough teacher or pretty laid back?

T.B.: I tend to be very easy for my students to relate to and trust. I like to feel that I am someone with whom they feel they can comfortably share information about their lives, their goals, their interests, and their fears. At the same time, I have always been very interested in getting the best effort out of any student of mine (on the tennis court and in the classroom). I am very motivated to make sure all of my students reach their potential. I will, therefore, strive to be a tough teacher, but one whom my students feel has their best interests at heart and is their friend, also.

B.R.: Do you own an iPhone?

T.B.: Yes, I have an I-phone.

B.R.: Do you have any unique abilities or talents?

T.B.: I don't know if this qualifies as a unique talent or ability ... but several people have told me that I am a "master" story-teller.

B.R.: Coke or Pepsi?

T.B.: Most definitely Coke ... especially Coke Zero!!!

B.R.: Favorite animal and/or Pokemon (if any)?

T.B.: My favorite animals are dogs and dolphins, with a slight edge going to dogs. I have a golden retriever who is almost 5 years old. I am about as attached to him as I could possibly be.

B.R.: Do you like your eggs scrambled or sunny side up?

T.B.: Definitely scrambled eggs.

B.R.: Do you believe in global warming?

ing?

T.B.: Yes, I do believe in global warming.



Todd Moran, Math and Coaching

B.R.: How did you end up at MBA?

T.M.: I previously worked at MBA for 6 years from 2002-2008. For the past two years I taught and coached at Woodberry Forest School in Virginia. Being an alum of MBA (97), it has always been my dream to finish my career at MBA, to help pass the traditions and teaching that was given to me to the next generation of MBA gentlemen.

B.R.: Are you excited or anxious about starting to teach at MBA?

T.M.: I could not be more excited about being back at MBA with a tremendously dedicated faculty and administration, as well as the tremendous student body.

B.R.: How did you choose your particular field of study? Was there anyone in your past who inspired you to study it?

T.M.: All of my mathematics teachers at MBA were tremendous, and I feel a strong obligation to give my students the same direction and guidance that was given to me.

B.R.: What extracurricular activities do you want to do at MBA?

T.M.: Football, basketball, and student government or service.

B.R.: What did you do in college besides study what you are now teaching?

T.M.: I majored in psychology, and, no, I do not know what you are thinking right now ...ha!

B.R.: Do you expect to be a strict and

tough teacher or pretty laid back?

T.M.: In teaching, I don't think you can say I am going to be this or that. I think you have to be yourself in everything that you do. If you are not who you are, students see through that.

B.R.: Do you own an iPhone?

T.M.: I don't own a cell phone, believe it or not.

B.R.: Do you have any unique abilities or talents?

T.M.: I have the ability to wake up at 6am and play UNO with my 4-year-old and 2-year-old girls.

B.R.: Coke or Pepsi?

T.M.: This is the South, so Coke. Pepsi is a kind of Coke.

B.R.: Favorite animal and/or Pokemon (if any)?

T.M.: Shark.

B.R.: Do you like your eggs scrambled or sunny side up?

T.M.: Scrambled.

B.R.: Do you believe in global warming?

T.M.: I don't know much about it, but after this summer I can assure you that the globe we are on is warm.



Matt Villemain, Biology and Coaching

B.R.: How did you end up at MBA?

M.V.: I graduated from University of North Carolina and began looking to teach in a private school. MBA was a perfect fit, as the school values a well-rounded student and takes academics very seriously.

B.R.: Are you excited or anxious about starting to teach at MBA?

M.V.: I am very excited to start teaching.

B.R.: How did you choose your particular field of study? Was there anyone in your past who inspired you to study it?

M.V.: I really enjoyed biology and history. I did lots of athletics growing up and really enjoyed how the body worked and how to improve the body. I ran track in college and was really excited about my anatomy and physiology classes. Biology was a good fit for me and kept me excited throughout my education.

B.R.: What extracurricular activities do you want to do at MBA?

M.V.: Track, cross-country, basketball, and music club of some sort.

B.R.: What did you do in college besides study what you are now teaching?

M.V.: I also studied exercise sports science, as well as history.

B.R.: Do you expect to be a strict and tough teacher or pretty laid back?

M.V.: With biology there is a lot to cover, we will have to put in a lot of hard work.

B.R.: Do you own an iPhone?

M.V.: No iPhone.

B.R.: Do you have any unique abilities or talents?

M.V.: I play Guitar.

B.R.: Coke or Pepsi?

M.V.: Coke.

B.R.: Favorite animal and/or Pokemon (if any)?

M.V.: Ram (UNC tarheels).

B.R.: Do you like your eggs scrambled or sunny side up?

M.V.: Scrambled eggs.

B.R.: Do you believe in global warming?

M.V.: Yes.

Ars Amatoria revisited: advice for insecure male

By Staff Male Counselors

When is the best time to make a move on a girl?

Wedding Crashers montage. Hands down.

What is the best way to break up with a girl?

Facebook for sure. You can just change your relationship status, and you don't even have to pick up a phone!

Do girls really have cooties?

I'll say I'm sorry, but I'm not taking off my glasses.

What are the best first date movies to see?

Wedding Crashers and *Fight Club* are great choices, but if you really want to make a good impression with this girl, then you gotta watch *You, Me, and Dupree*.

So I think this one girl is into me, but last time we were texting she ended the conversation. So, I decided to take a walk, and I saw a dog wearing an orange collar with yellow stripes. What is that?? I immediately returned home to make myself a pizza lunchable. What in the world should I do about this girl?

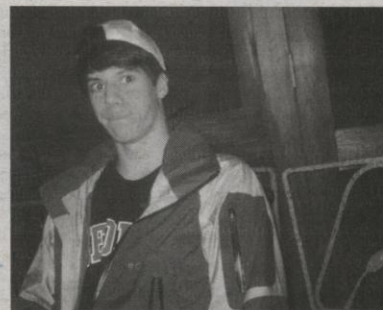
Uh... I dunno. Ask Clay Garrett.

How do I turn my swag on?

That's easy. Go buy a Virginia hoodie, complement it with a Tarheel lanyard and long black Under Armour socks. Oh, and make sure to wear a black trucker-style Georgia hat... backwards. Now, just talk in an unusually deep voice and the ladies will flock.

What is the best way to ask a girl to Homecoming?

Ask two months in advance, and make sure your cat doesn't die. Wouldn't want to have to cancel because your cat's funeral was the night



Weesul knows a thing or two about "swag," which is the key to any girl's heart, besides just wearing the color red (see page 20 for the real lady advice!) Photo courtesy of facebook.com

of the dance.

What if I decide I don't want to take my Homecoming date after all?

Just tell her your cat died. Case closed!

You hipsters need to understand the word *indie*

By Jamie Joyce
Staff Writer

Let's start with the basics. Hipsters have come to be known to our generation as anyone who strives to be out of the ordinary, most commonly in the way they dress and the music they listen to. I'm sure all you skinny-jean, no-lens-glasses-wearing kids are scoffing over your Starbucks chai-latte whatever at the fact that I would be so crass as to generalize a group who so pride themselves on being different.

But, I'm here to set things straight. Hipsters are no different from any other era-defining trend. Hipster is to 2010 what Emo was to 2005, what Goth was to 1995, and what Grunge was to 1993. Don't get defensive. It's just the facts.

So what is my point? Hey, I'm not blaming anyone. I'm an extremely accepting person, and I believe that people should be able to dress and act the way they want to. My frustration comes from a more musical standpoint. Hipsters listen to indie music. But what does that even mean?

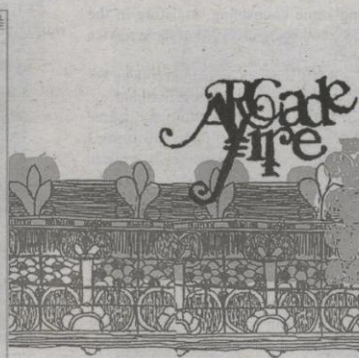
Search your wool-stocking-hat-covered heads for a second. I feel like the word *indie* derives from something else... oh yeah! Independent! It's called Independent Music because it's different right? Wrong! Independent, or indie, is **not** a genre. Indie music is a term coined by the music industry to describe what is simply music that uses an independent distribution company to deliver the music to the consumer, rather than a major label. But unfortunately for all you hipsters out there, independent music is actually extremely hard to come by

these days.

Think of your favorite "indie" band. Now find out what record label they're on. Merge? Matador? Nonesuch? Barsuk? XL? Those surely must be independent labels. Well, I'm sorry to report that after Warner Bros., perhaps the most evil and poorly run of all the major record companies, bought the holy Sub Pop in January of 1995 (an exact 49%, which may not be the majority but that's just splitting hairs), the Alternative Distribution Alliance was created and took off as the world leader in independent music distribution. It seems a bit hypocritical to me that 95% of the largest "indie" music distributor is owned by a major label such as Warner Bros. And even the 5% owned by Sub Pop is really owned by Warner as well, considering the fact that Warner owns a large portion of Sub Pop, itself.

All of those "indie" labels which call themselves home to great bands such as Vampire Weekend, the Black Keys, Spoon, and Arcade Fire are actually distributed through a major record label. Also, unfortunately for those fans who will defend bands who have split from their labels like the Shins and Radiohead, they wouldn't have gotten to the status they're at now had it not been for the major labels in the first place.

Now I'm not trying to rain on



Indie favorites Arcade Fire, The Black Keys, and Vampire Weekend are actually distributed by major record labels. Could the musical mood swings of "hipsters" lead them to turn against these artists and call them "sell outs" should they experience a major rise in popularity like that of Kings of Leon in 2009?

Photos courtesy of Google Images.

Local music venue completes move

By Chris Hooks
Staff Writer

On the weekend of August 8th, the local Christian music venue/coffee shop/skate park known as Rockettown officially opened the doors to its brand new facility.

The move was necessary after the old building and its neighbor, Sixth Avenue Skatepark, were both in the footprint of the new Music City Center.

Rockettown has taken advantage of the move to upgrade to a bigger space. It now boasts both an indoor and an outdoor skate park, as well as larger concert floors and a larger coffee shop and lounge.

Despite the move, Rockettown has managed to stay in business in a temporary location next to their new location, known as the "White Building."

During the moving process, the venue was not able to book more well-known bands due to the limited space, but with the larger concert area, Rockettown has already lined up some pretty well-known artists for the upcoming months. From metal (or "screamo," if you will) giants such as Whitechapel, August Burns Red, and Bring Me the Horizon, to more mainstream alternative bands such as Flyleaf and 30 Seconds to Mars.

Even though Rockettown is booking more and more popular artists, ticket prices still remain very low, with all shows being under thirty dollars, and most shows under twenty.

All in all, Rockettown's city-mandated move has improved their business significantly, and the future looks bright.

Check out their website, Rockettown.com, for more info and upcoming event details.



Even though the move was city mandated, Rockettown seems to be profiting from it's relocation. Photo courtesy of Google Images

anyone's parade here. I'm neither defending nor attacking the major labels. I'm just trying to make this information known so that teenagers, such as us, will have a better understanding of the music industry and what truly makes a band, record label, or song "independent."

But I still haven't gotten to the point have I? The reader is still unsure about what I'm arguing. My problem with the hipsters of today is that music has recently become a competition. Not for the bands, but for the fans. You see, all of a sudden music has become less enjoyable as it becomes more of a race to reach the obscure; a quest to be the first to reach that independent pot of musical gold at the end of the rainbow. And with the Internet and publications such as *Pitchfork Magazine* nowadays, the search has never been more competitive.

Then, once the goal has been reached, said band is hidden away and only to be used for the discoverer's personal satisfaction in knowing that he/she was the first. *That*, my friends, is *stupid*.

To me, these people are not really fans of the music. Most of them just illegally download the music anyway. The fact that people will go so far as to stop listening to a band simply because they have gotten a little bit more popular or because they've started to get some coverage by iTunes or *Rolling Stone* is ridiculous. If they were really fans, they would be happy for the success.

You're currently racking your brains and trying to think of an instance of when utter hypocrisy, such as this, has been demonstrated. Ever heard of a band called Kings of Leon? Of course you have. Since releasing their latest album, *Only By The Night*, in 2009, KOL has been topping

the charts in just about every country. Unfortunately, they've also been accused of "selling out." Selling out? Because they finally, and pretty much *accidentally*, broke through to a larger audience so that their music could be shared to the world and inspire people in the exact way that it has inspired us? How dare they! What people fail to understand is that bands naturally mature and progress, just as we do. They are human. Get over it if *Only By The Night* doesn't sound like *Aha Shake Heartbreak*. It was still a great album. And the fact that they're making money off of it doesn't make them any less "indie" than they were before. They were on a major label to begin with and everyone still liked the music then.

"Indie" music is a sham. It's a marketing scheme. Major labels and distributors actually go through a great deal of trouble to make sure that information like this never actually reaches the average listener, or hipster as I have come to call them. Chances are, if you are stumbling around on Myspace and you come across a band that you've never heard of before and they're actually good, it won't be another year until they've started to get some attention. It's just the way the world works.

Enjoy the music. Don't hide it away or shun something simply because it's popular. And for those of you who are going to complain about how it's merely a *taste* issue and about how you never liked Kings of Leon to begin with, you can be quiet because in only a few years time you'll already be claiming that you never liked Arcade Fire. Share the music, and the love, and all that stuff, and stop being to pretentious. Seriously, it's annoying.

Capt. Norton has super secret school spirit playlist

By Marc Giguere
Entertainment co-Editor

We might not all be quite as excited about school starting back up as Capt. Norton, but that's only because we don't have his highly guarded, government-issue, i-tunes playlist of songs to get us back into the groove. At least not until now! I jacked his i-pod, wrote down the songs and the artists, and then gently placed it back in its dock, and got out of his house. This is what I compiled from my research:

Dr. Yang by Ben Folds – This song is a great way to remind us how terribly contrived life is outside of a structured school day.

New Math by Bo Burnham – A song that takes math and makes it fun and offensive again, just like it used to be!

Long Line of Cars by Cake – Traffic is brutal on school days, especially in the morning. Cake knows it, and this sensitive band sympathizes with you.

The Running Free by Coheed and Cambria – This song perfectly embodies the emotion you feel at the end of 8th period. That is, unless you're on the football team... that emotion is probably better summed up by *I Want To Be Sedated* by The Ramones....

Growing on Me by The Darkness – Not feeling this new class you're taking? Hate your lab partner? Are you generally just unpleasant, and not a very go-with-the-flow kind of person? Well, then, let this song get you into an open-minded state-of-mind.

Black History Month by Death From Above 1979 – This song sounds educational. It's not. But it is a good old American rock song, so play it loud if you're a patriot! Play it soft, and you're an anarchist. How loud is loud enough to be a patriot? Well, we'll see, won't we....?

Unstoppable by Foxy Shazam – Didn't read that pesky book? Didn't review your flashcards before your Spanish quiz? Well, who needs studying!? Crush that test with pure enthusiasm!

Any Way You Want It by Journey – The cafeteria attendant will only give you a chicken patty OR spaghetti? BLASPHEMY! Sing this song to her gently until she adopts the Burger King philosophy.

Communications Breakdown by Led Zeppelin – Maybe if we all get the Led out enough, the internet will work on Theme Day.

The Kids Aren't Alright by The Offspring – Let's all be good role models for the junior school this year, because according to this song, without positive, adult influence, you turn out to be a multi-platinum, award-winning rock star, and NONE of us wants that for them.

Fat Bottomed Girls by Queen – The Ultimate team anthem is still a great song over thirty years later.

Leave That Thing Alone by Rush – Here's looking at you, Giguere.

Where Boys Fear to Tread by The Smashing Pumpkins – Who knew that The Smashing Pumpkins wrote a song for Ensworth about our school? I didn't... that's pretty righteous.

Holiday by Vampire Weekend – Just keep on singing it until winter break. That's right... block out your problems.... Good.

2010-2011 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT OFFICERS

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Vice-President Scott Gould
Secretary Clay McDonald
Treasurer Cooper Thomas

Honor Council Officers

Tom Markham
Andrew Powell
Chase Owen
Paul Van Pernis

Student Council Officers

President Christian Alford
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Secretary John Wyse
Treasurer Nick Besette
Media/Video Matthew Johnson
Discipline Rep Cody Fisher
Walt Macey

CLASS OF 2012

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Daniel Mace
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Student Council Members

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Joe Barry
Jamie Bradshaw
Paul Brazil
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Treasurer Mark Lowe

Honor Council Members

Jody Gorham
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Student Council Members

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Jackson Flora
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McKay Proctor
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CLASS OF 2014

9th Class Officers

President
Vice-President
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Honor Council Members

Cal Fisher
Wilson Vaughn

Student Council Members

CLASS OF 2015

Honor Council Members

Aaron Kaplan

MBA students love Lollapalooza 2010

By Lucas Littlejohn
Staff Writer

Dictionary.com defines a lollapalooza as "an extraordinary or unusual thing, person, or event," and the 2010 Lollapalooza was nothing less than extraordinary.

The massive three-day music festival occurs annually (this year on the weekend of August 6-8) in Grant Park of downtown Chicago, Illinois. Featuring over 130 bands and artists from the most mainstream of the mainstream to the most obscure of the obscure, the festival is sure to please even the most skeptical attendee.

The sheer size and hype behind the festival was truly incredible, with the 320-acre park being filled by eight full-size stages. The number of people in attendance is absolutely jaw-dropping; even moving from a congested to clear area was difficult and took time and patience. Fortunately, Chicago is nothing like Nashville in the summertime, and the temperature hovered around a sunny, "balmy" 85 degrees.

While every concert I took part in put a smile on my face, three in particular stood out as exceptional: The Strokes, Phoenix, and MGMT. Their show at Lolla was one of the first that the Strokes had played in several years, and they made sure it would leave their mark in the minds of their loyal fans. The sheer energy of the Friday night concert impressed me, and the lighting, an LED show of colors, shapes, and fog, was

spectacular. Of course, the group played favorites such as "Last Nite", "What Ever Happened?", and "Reptilia," which easily riled fans up. Jamie Joyce described them as "angels sent down from heaven to blow our minds."

On Saturday night, the massively popular French band Phoenix played, which was a special experience to me, as Phoenix is a favorite of mine. My friends Hayden Deakins, Jack Emerson, and I waited for three hours to get a good spot, and we ended up being about 20 yards away from the lead singer. The concert did no less than blew my mind from the start to the finish. They ended up playing their whole *Wolfgang Amadeus Phoenix* album, including popular songs such as "Lisztomania", "1901", "Lasso", and "Armistice", as well as songs from other albums, like "Long Distance Call", all of which they performed flawlessly.

It seemed that the band was as much in awe of the crowd as the crowd was in awe of the band, with the lead singer saying that they had never played in front of so many fans. The concert ended with a bang when the lead singer, Thomas Mars, jumped into the crowd and crowd surfed during their last song.

On Sunday afternoon, the three of us took part in the MGMT concert. There was, again, an unreal number of people at the show. MGMT is a very talented group and they put on a great show, playing songs



Lead vocalist Thomas Mars of the French foursome Phoenix rocks hard at Lollapalooza in Chicago. Phoenix, MGMT, and The Strokes were among the favorite acts at the 3-day music festival. Photos courtesy of LollapaloozaFest.

ranging from "The Youth", "Time to Pretend", and "Electric Feel" on their *Oracular Spectacular* album to "Brian Eno" and "Flash Delirium" on their *Congratulations* album. They ended the show with their most popular song, "Kids", and took it a step further when they involved the crowd by telling us to sing along to a portion of the song.

Overall, Lollapalooza ended up being an incredible experience for me and my friends, with a massive selection of famous and talented bands wrapped up in the safe, clean, fun environment of Grant Park in downtown Chicago.



Julian Casablancas of The Strokes sings in front of a spectacular LED light show. Lollapalooza was one of the first shows The Strokes have played in years, but they were as tight as ever.



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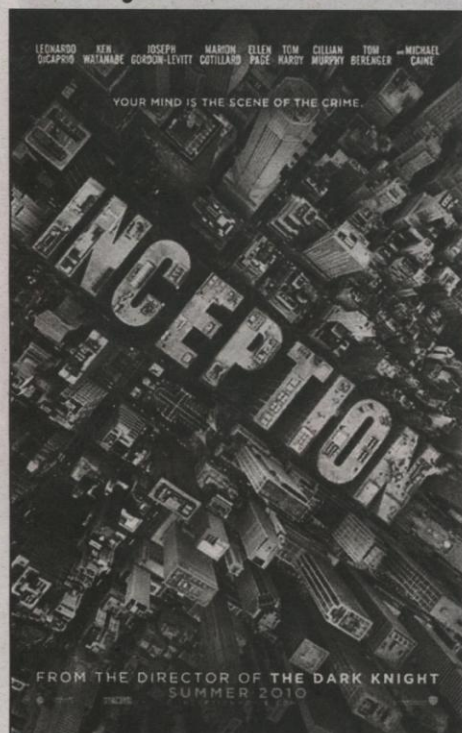
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Nashville's Home for Video Game Tournaments

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Wally's movie reviews for the attention deficient



By Walton Macey
Staff Movie Maven

Inception....wow! I was lucky enough to be one of the many who saw the midnight showing. I had seen the commercials with the crazy special effects and really dramatic music, so I was a little excited, but not expecting too much.

I was totally unaware of what I was about to witness. I had no idea what the basic gist of the movie was or what *Inception* meant. And, after seeing the movie three more times, I'm still confused about what *Inception* means, but I have a basic understanding of what all went down in this movie.

Nevertheless, *Inception* exceeded all expectations. The movie starts a little slow, like there is a little bit of cool action and a whole lot of confusion. Once the movie picks up the pace, you will be completely invested in the plot and characters.

Randomly, after one really intense scene, a stranger in front of me yelled "This movie is awesome!!!" IT WAS!! Leonardo DiCaprio has earned my respect after *Inception* and *Shutter Island*. He's probably going to win some award for his performance.

The girl from *Junio* did alright, and the rest of the cast was amazing, also.

I highly recommend that you see this movie soon. If you have already seen it, go see it again. This is the type of intellectual action thriller that you must see more than once to grasp fully its greatness.

Christopher Nolan, Leonardo DiCaprio, and Ellen Page team up and the result, *Inception*, was fantastic. Certainly worth seeing in theaters...twice...three times...maybe four! Spanky sure liked it. Photo courtesy of Google Images.

Top 10 Movie Plots/Twist

Memento- Craziest way to film a movie. Definitely a thinker. You will love the ending.

Inception-see above.

Usual Suspects- Awesome mobster/crime movie that will blow your mind.

Shutter Island- This movie will mess with your head. Leonardo DiCaprio as a detective at an insane asylum.

Fight Club- The most intense movie in years. Brad Pitt and Edward Norton form an underground "fight club", and the movie gets more ridiculous from there.

Prestige- The actor who plays Wolverine in *X-men* and the guy who plays Batman in the *Dark Knight* face-off in a legit story about two competing magicians.

Déjà vu- Denzel Washington at his finest. Nuff said.

12 Monkeys- Bruce Willis and Brad Pitt in the future. Brad Pitt's funniest character. Really sweet ending.

The Game- I had never heard of this movie but watched it on a whim and loved every minute of it. Michael Douglas has one crazy day.

Sixth Sense-If you don't know the ending to this movie, hurry up and see it.

Spanky gives
Inception two
thumbs up!



Varallo's is old but still a Nashville favorite



By Blake Burns
Staff Restaurant Reviewer

Hello, readers, and welcome back from summer break! I would love to imagine that a lot of you are reading this, but I'm pretty sure most of you guys are resting your eyes from speed reading all of *Mountains Beyond Mountains* in the last few days. So, then, I will write to the few who read their books right after exams and had a stress-free summer.

I was asked to review a rather unique restaurant this summer, and, in my opinion, I found one. When seeing one of their old 1907 menus around my house, I decided to do some further research into Varallo's.

Varallo's is the oldest restaurant in Nashville and carries much history with its old age. As America has seen tremendous change over the past 103 years, Varallo's has been along for the journey, but the eatery

hasn't changed what they do best. It is still owned by the Varallo family, now reaching the fourth generation. From Frank Varallo, Sr. in 1907 to Todd and Tony Varallo today, the restaurant hopefully will be in the family for many more generations to come.

Walk into the restaurant around lunch time and you will see how much the Varallo family cares about their customers, as all of the employees generally know all of the frequent customers by name. Varallo's was also the first restaurant in Nashville to have its beer license after Prohibition was repealed. At that time a bottle of beer cost 10 cents and a bottle of Coca Cola cost 5 cents. Further, a bowl of chili would cost you 15 cents at that time.

I would love to write about how great the food was in 1907, but obviously I have no idea. Therefore, I tried the food in 2010, and I do not regret it. I had a burger and fries that were excellent. Varallo's also has a meat and three menu that changes daily.

Varallo's is most notable for its chili, though. Started as a chili parlor, the chili at Varallo's is superb. Varallo's also has a breakfast menu that serves most breakfast classics that come to mind, such as biscuits, eggs, bacon, and pancakes.

Varallo's is located at 239 4th Avenue North in downtown Nashville. As their menu says, "One Picture Is Worth a Thousand Words - One Taste Is Worth a Thousand Pictures". So, go experience the good taste of Nashville's oldest restaurant!!

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MBA soccer watches SA World Cup 2010

By George Swenson
Staff Sports Writer

This year marked the 19th playing of the FIFA World Cup Games. Every country was watching to see if its own team could pull out a victory. Throughout the World Cup the entire United States was watching to see how its team was doing in South Africa. The hype and the passion for the United States team to succeed brought much national attention to the sport.

Among those people intently watching were MBA soccer coaches Cheevers and Klausner. While watching just for the pure love of the sport, they also hoped to learn a few tips along the way. Coach Cheevers said that he was not surprised that Spain won because it was the most technical team. The poor performance of England, however, did not surprise Coach Cheevers, calling the team "totally overrated." He only hopes that one day England will go back to the grass roots and instill the much needed technical skills into the youth.

What did surprise him, though, was the attitude of the French players. "It is

a sad day when players refuse to carry out instructions of the coach and then boycott the team's training."

Coach Klausner watched the World Cup unfold because of its amazing dynamic. To see undiscovered superstars outperform the expected superstars adds much excitement and tension. On the same topic, he finds it thrilling to watch a young German team defeat Argentina, full of seasoned veterans. He too, though, feels that Spain was the most dominant team throughout the tournament.

Both Coach Cheevers and Klausner are optimistic that the World Cup will have a positive effect on MBA's teams. Coach Cheevers hopes that the hype and the passion for soccer will continue and that more boys will participate in the great soccer program at MBA. Coach Klausner loves the fact that the USA team has such superstars as Landon Donovan for his younger players to emulate.

The coaches are positive that the inspiration and excitement created by the World Cup will make a state title for MBA achievable, especially after our exceptional 2009 season.

MBA golf team starts strong, has young talent



The MBA Golf team has started well and hopes to follow the leadership of seniors Hayden and Cody right to state.

By Cody Fisher
Staff Writer

Under new coach John Harvey, the MBA golf team has opened the year with a promising start, going 2 and 0 in its first two tournaments.

The team began the season with a big victory down in Port St. Lucie, Florida at the Nations Golf Classic, led by the team of Hayden Morgan, Roe Moore, Chase Matthews, and Austin Doeblar.

That win was followed up on August 5 when the team of Cal Fisher, Roe Moore, Austin Doeblar, Hayden Morgan, and Will Peffen won the Stan McNabb Tournament by four strokes in Tullahoma. Hayden won the tournament outright, shooting an even par 72. Freshman Cal Fisher was quoted afterward as saying, "Yeah, Hayden played pretty good, but I know I can beat him if I try." Good luck with your endeavors, Calvin.

The team is led by seniors Hayden Morgan and Cody Fisher, with juniors Roe Moore, Austin Doeblar, Brandon Sauerma, Will Peffen, and Bevan Petrikin backing them up. Sophomore Sam Waitt and freshmen Cal Fisher and Chase Matthews are all new to the team.

The team hopes to continue its winning streak all the way to state, and the golfers would love all the support they can get. And Roll Red!

2010-2011 Varsity Golf Roster

Austin Doeblar 2012
Cal Fisher 2014
Cody Fisher 2011
Chase Matthews 2014
Roe Moore 2012
Hayden Morgan 2011
Will Peffen 2012
Bevan Petrikin 2013
Brandon Sauerma 2012
Sam Waitt 2013

2010 Big Red football season begins Friday

By Connor Caldwell
Sports Editor

Football season is back! Well, I guess it never really ended, but now we get to hit bad guys for a change. Now, everyone's been asking "How are we gonna do this year?" Seriously, guys? It's MBA. We're on a hill. We're gonna pretty much dominate. What else do I need to say? With 15 returning starters, we're ready to roll red. As many of y'all may know from the incessant whining of our players, we've been hard at work all summer. Meanwhile, certain opponents (who will remain unnamed) have been finishing up their coloring books in summer school at a recently flooded rival high school (which will also remain unnamed).

According to the coaches' poll of local teams, MBA is ranked #1 in the mid-state for the preseason. The assessment listed our strength as our skill players, but our weakness as our line. I agree that our backs (De'Ante Hughes, Tyler Franks, Joe Riegle, Alec Hunt, Ben Cooode, Jhamal Wright, and others) will run train on just about anybody. But calling our line a weakness? Really, local coaches? Really? We graduate our line every year, and every year we come out and do work. This year we get to keep both Andrei "the giant" and the ridiculously good-looking Connor Caldwell on the D-line, and everyone's favorite teddy bear, Chris Sandwith, is leading the O-line. And

seriously, how could our line be a weakness with Miller Higgins there? 'Nuf said.

As the pools are boiling, and the trees are burning in the raging inferno that we call August, our team has been risking its lives, and our tans, to practice. While most of you slackers out there were asleep, at the pool, or playing "whatever it is y'all play now," we were running into each other dressed head to toe in metal and plastic. Now that's the life. As for our plays, we have this one really good one, where one of our guys takes the ball and runs really, really far, and then we get six points. That one's probably my favorite.

This can't be a football article without mentioning the fans. I strongly believe that we have the best fans in the state, nay, the country. So it's time for y'all to prove it. I will be sorely disappointed if even a single student is still wearing a shirt in the stands. I know you all want an excuse to take your shirts off in front of Harpeth Hall girls anyway, so let this be your chance. And every senior better have his number painted on somebody's back. That's just a given. And, whatever those horn things that the World Cup stole from us, yeah, those are coming back. I don't want Ensworth to be able to hear themselves ... think ... do Ensworth players think? ... Never mind, you know what I'm getting at. Let's show everyone why we are so good. I look forward to the season with all of y'all. USA! USA! USA!

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Roll Red!

Men wearing red found to trigger female desire

By Andrew Powell
Editor-in-Chief

Unlike the article below, this one is founded 100% in truth. No joke. Check it out on cbsnews.com!

A recent top story on CBS opens with: "Forget chocolates and flowers, guys. If you want to make a big impression on the opposite sex, try adding red to your daily wardrobe. *Lots of red.*"

An international committee of scientists has confirmed a fact that has been long known on the Hill: the color Red simply makes a man more desirable!

Cbsnews.com reports that scientists have recently found that men wearing red are more attractive to women. Can I get a Roll Red?! The color apparently "makes a man seem more powerful and more sexually desirable to women," according to a study appearing in the *Journal of Experimental Psychology*.

Scientists posit women associate men wearing red with higher status and think them more likely to make a good living.

This unconscious association leads to the attraction says University of Rochester Psychologist Andrew Elliot.

This "red-effect" is not unique to American culture. It has been observed in many various places and people groups around the world. This fact suggests the power of red is a historical or biological factor rather than a cultural adaptation, which is a very significant distinction in finding the root cause of red's greatness.

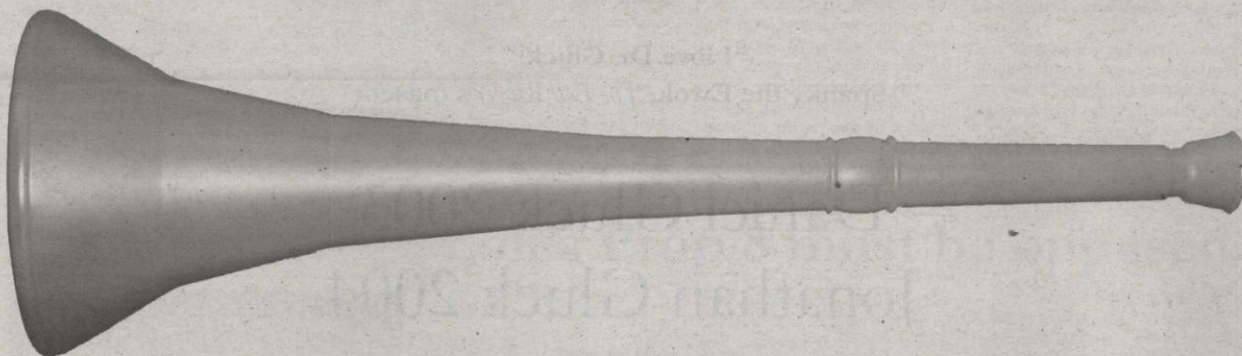
But, that's not all folks! Red is so far superior to all the other colors that the red effect goes beyond even the entire human population on Earth - similar female attraction to males wearing red has been observed in other species, such as crustaceans, fish, birds and nonhuman primates.

"In the wild, red is an indicator of physical strength and dominance," explains Dr. Elliot. In the TSSAA, it clearly is as well.

Studies attempting to demonstrate the negative, repulsive effects of males wearing orange and black are in their early stages, but have yet to reach any conclusions.



MBA starts worldwide Vuvuzela phenomenon



By Scott Dalton
Staff Wind Instrument

Recently MBA students and the rest of the world have been exposed to what Wikipedia would call a "brass" instrument that releases 120 decibels and a standard B flat sound. In case you are not musically inclined (44.23% of the United States population is not), then B flat is the same note in which your toilet flushes. 120 decibels is a number that means mostly nothing to the general population. However, when more closely examined, could it be true that MBA students have started the worldwide revolution known as Vuvuzela fever?

Let's cut to the chase: YES. Is there solid proof? YES.

Let's use Wikipedia here to diminish the popular myths about the inventor of the Vuvuzela. The first and most noted supposed inventor (according to Wikipedia) was nicknamed "Saddam" in High School...that's legit. Wikipedia claims that Winslow Homer referenced the Vuvuzela in one of his 1870's novels...false.

So, it is clear that we need to flash

back to last year's not quite 13-0 football season. Enter the red Vuvuzela into Big Red Nation. When asked about the Vuvuzela's effect on the overall effectiveness of the Big Red defense, the general consensus of the football team was death from heat stroke. Partha Reddy commented by saying "tre fo" and throwing up some sort of gang sign.

With no apparent inspiration or truth from the previous comments, the players of the Ensworth football team were sent an email with the same question; their response was simply nothing because they were all in the Hamptons for the weekend, watching film and snorkeling. So, from where did the idea for the invention of the Vuvuzela come?

After playing The Beatles record "Abbey Road" backwards, it is apparent that Paul McCartney is a walrus and that in 1969 Neil Armstrong used small amounts of moon rock to breed the first Vuvuzela. After bringing the moon rock to scientific greats such as Albert Einstein, Isaac Newton, Gregor Mendel and Bill Gates, it was recorded that subsequently Steve Jobs stole everything and then lost the secret formula

in his attempt to make computers whose target market is teenage girls. In a desperate attempt to claim some sort of invention to go global, the African Nations got together and voted Nelson Mandela to officially claim the rights to the Vuvuzela. Unfortunately, he was too busy starring in the movie *Invictus* to do anything about it.

When all attempts failed to patent and market the Vuvuzela, the Big Red pounced on another opportunity to make history by buying cheap plastic and marketing it to inferiors who wish they were on a hill. Once the Vuvuzela was introduced into a Big Red football game, France immediately cried and asked if we could destroy them and our second amendment. Standing tall, the Big Red nation continued to use and market the Vuvuzela, full well knowing that the World Cup would soon be the target market. After an extraordinary season of football and busted eardrums, the Big Red Vuvuzela entered the world stage.

Immediately after 145,987,456,778,069 units of Vuvuzela were sold to the African nations, Wimbledon pursued a ban on them, stating "[MBA is

legit]" and "[Why does a horn get more coverage than our sport?]." The British Prime Minister said "[I am frustrated no one knows who I am]" and the Netherlands attempted to actually do something for once. When addressed about the issue of Vuvuzela invasion to spread from the Hill and South Africa to the rest of the world, President Obama went on "The View" and read a teleprompter for the 53rd time this month.

Everything aside, let it be known on this day that the Vuvuzela is indeed an invention by the Big Red for the greater community of the world; a decibel is a unit that measures sound; the United States is tired of losing games of soccer; the World Cup is forever transformed by the Vuvuzela; LeBron James, Dwayne Wade, and Chris Bosch have formed the NBA's second triumvirate after the previous "Boston Three Party", as stated by ESPN; and MBA continues to influence the world by constantly being innovative, trendy, way ahead of their time, and mostly just being dominant when it comes to everything.